

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X (Trans Ltr)		
2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO				
15	VC/NIC		X (Trans Ltr)		
16	NIO/CT		X (W/Report)		
17	DER				
18					
19					
20					
21					
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SUSPENSE _____
Date

Remarks

To # 16: Pls acknowledge.

Executive Secretary

3 Sep 85

Date

3637 (10-81)

STAT

Executive Registry

85-
3328

August 26, 1985

The Director of the
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sir:

Enclosed is an article that I recently wrote, entitled: "America's Insecure Borders in an Age of International Terrorism." This article discusses the national security implications of the porous Mexico-U.S. border in the light of the recent "Juarez incident."

As you probably know, the Juarez incident entailed the accidental transport of hundreds of tons of radioactive materials from Mexico to the U.S., resulting in the exposure of scores of Americans to damaging, and, in some cases, possibly lethal, dosages of radioactivity.

The article argues that what happened by accident during the course of the Juarez incident could very well happen by deliberate political design in the future. That is, terrorists could easily enter the U.S., across the Mexican-American border, and they could be in possession of radioactive materials like those that entered the U.S., undetected, in the past. These materials could then be "seeded" in key locations around the country, for purposes of political extortion, or they could readily be combined with conventional explosives in the construction of non-nuclear, but nevertheless radioactive, terrorist bombs.

The article further argues that no U.S. anti-terrorist policy can ever be complete unless it also squarely addresses the border security issue. It views the existing efforts of federal and state governments, i.e., to detect and apprehend illegal migrants and hazardous substances, as being piecemeal, unsystematic and wholly inadequate.

The article closes with a series of concrete recommendations for securing the U.S.-Mexico border, including the improvement of physical security measures and the rotating assignment of certain elements of the U.S. Armed Forces to border patrol duties.



1-147

The Director of the CIA--2

August 26, 1985

I fervently hope that this article will contribute to the institution of timely corrective policies and actions on the part of this nation's political and defense establishments. I am well aware of the political sensitivity of U.S. border and immigration issues, however, history has, in part, transformed our border/immigration problems into national defense problems, and history will doubtless require strong and courageous acts of political leadership if these difficulties are to be remedied. Would that our leadership be equal to the challenge!

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas W. Foster".

Thomas W. Foster
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Enclosure

America's Insecure Borders in an
Age of International Terrorism

by

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